

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 OMB-01 TAR-02 SPC-03

AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00

OIC-04 RSC-01 SIL-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-02

SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 H-03 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD

SUBJECT: SPECIAL SESSION OF UNCTAD BOARD

REF: GENEVA 217

1. FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH UNCTAD SECRETARIAT INDICATE TIMING OF SPECIAL SESSION OF TDB IS ONLY INTENDED SUBJECT OF JAN 30 CONSULTATION. SECRETARIAT SAYS, IF ASKED ABOUT DATES FOR SESSION, THEY WILL SAY APRIL WOULD BE BEST FROM ADMINISTRATIVE STANDPOINT (SINCE NO UNCTAD MEETINGS SEHEDULED THEN); IF GOVERNMENTS WANT EARLIER OR LATER TIME THEY WILL SEE WHAT THEY CAN DO.

2. CONVERSATIONS WITH SEVERAL OTHER MISSIONS INDICATE UNANIMOUS VIEW THAT IMPETUS OFR EARLY MEETING IS DESIRE OF OIL IMPORTING LCS'S TO HAVE A PLATFORM TO CALL ATTENTION TO THEIR SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH OIL SITUATION, PARTICULARLY PRICE AND CONSEQUENT BALANCE OF  
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PAYMENTS PROBLEMS. SOME THINK THERE WILL BE SERIOUS EFFORT

TO RELATE THESE PROBLEMS TO TRADE AND MONETARY NEGOTIATIONS, AS PURPOSE OF SESSION WOULD SEEM TO REQUIRE; OTHERS THINK OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE MAY BE ALMOST IGNORED WITH DIRECT DISCUSSION OF ENERGY CRISIS. ABOVE REFLECTS PERSONAL VIEWS OF LOCAL REPS; NO DELEGATIONS HAVE INSTRUCTIONS.

3. MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR LAI, WHO IS ONE OF MORE THOUGHTFUL AND ALSO INFLUENTIAL LDC REPS, THINKS OBJECTIVE TO CALL ATTENTION TO PROBLEM OF LDC'S IN UN FORUM AND HIGHLIGHT TO PRODUCER COUNTRIES THAT NOT ONLY DC'S ARE SUFFERING. HE THINKS MAJORITY OF LDC'S WILL SUPPORT MEETING; MALAYSIA, WHICH ON BALANCE IS MARGINALLY AN EXPORTER, WILL NOT OBJECT, AND HE THINKS PRODUCERS GENERALLY CAN HARDLY OBJECT. OUTCOME OF MEETING, BEYOND SOME PUBLICITY FOR PROBLEM, MIGHT BE INSTRUCTION TO SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE STUDY OF BURDEN ON LDC'S FOR LATER CONSIDERATION BY BOARD.

4. DC REPS WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED MOSTLY HAVE NOT REALLY FOCUSED ON QUESTION. FEW PERSONAL COMMENTS WE HAVE HEARD LEAN TOWARD APPROVAL OF EARLY MEETING ON GROUNDS THAT IT CAN BRING SOME PUBLICITY TO BURDEN OF OIL PRICE INCREASES ON LDC'S, WE MAY AS WELL LET OTHER LDC'S PRESS PRODUCERS, AND THERE IS NOTHING TO LOSE.

5. COMMENT: WE REMAIN SUSPICIOUS OF INTENT AND OUTCOME OF UNCTAD MEETINGS PUSHED BY SECRETARIAT AND GENEVA LDC REPS IN GENERAL, WHICH TEND USUALLY TOWARD CRITICISM OF DC'S AND EFFORTS TO PROVE THEM RESPONSIBLE FOR PROBLEMS AND EXTRACT CONCESSIONS. WE ARE NOT SURE HOW THIS GENERAL DRIVE MIGHT BE APPLIED TO MONETARY AND TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN THIS CONTEXT OR TRANSLATED INTO ANY SPECIFIC EMBASSASSMENTS IN THESE ARENAS IN RELATION TO ENERGY CRISIS, BUT DO NOT ASSUME LDC'S WILL NOT HAVE THE INGENUITY TO DO SO. CRITICISM OF MAJOR OIL COMPANIES ALMOST CERTAINLY WOULD BE PART OF PICTURE. NEVERTHELESS WE THINK THERE COULD BE SOME ADVANTAGE TO GIVING LDC OIL IMPORTERS A PLATFORM AND THAT, IF LDC'S GENERALLY WANT MEETING, SERIOUS OBJECTION ON OUR PART WOULD NOT BE WELL RECEIVED. THIS IS PARTICULARLY SO SINCE THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME FEELING, DESPITE U.S. EFFORTS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT WE INTEND TO BRING LDC CONSUMERS INTO ENERGY CONSULTATIONS AT LATER STAGE, THAT WE ARE THINKING OF PROBLEMS AND PROCEDURES FOR SOLUTIONS WITHOUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADEQUATE REGARD FOR THEIR INTERESTS.

6. OUR PRESENT THINKING, THEREFORE, IS THAT WE SHOULD LISTEN TO VIEWS OF OTHERS WITH OPEN MIND; IF THESE VIEWS DO NOT CHANGE PICTURE, WE SHOULD INDICATE DOUBT AS TO USEFULNESS OF EARLY SESSION BUT THAT WE WILL NOT OBJECT IF IT IS WANTED BY MAJORITY. MISSION OF COURSE WILL REPORT VIEWS EXPRESSED AT JAN. 22 MEETING AND VIEWS OF OTHER GROUPS WHEN THEY BECOME

KNOWN.

7. IN CONNECTION WITH ALL ABOVE IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN  
MINE THAT NEITHER WE NOT GROUP B HAVE VETO; IF LDC'S  
WANT MEETING IT WILL BE HELD.BASSIN

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